

REMARKS

The indication that claims 28 to 30 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Those claims have been rewritten in independent form and should be immediately allowable.

Claim 13 has been revised to improve the style thereof and to include the limitations of claims 24 and 25; accordingly, claims 24 and 25 have been canceled. The claims before the Examiner are, thus, claims 13 to 23 and 26 to 30.

The rejection of claims 13 and 18 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Suzuki et al. '674, the rejection of claims 14 to 16 and 19 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable under Suzuki et al. '674, and the rejection of claim 17 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable under Suzuki et al. '674, further in view of Murakami et al. '247, are believed moot in view of the incorporation of features into claim 13 from claims that were not so rejected.

The rejection of claims 24 and 25 as unpatentable over Suzuki et al. '674 further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, is moot to the extent that it applies to claims 24 and 25 and is respectfully traversed insofar as it may apply to claims 13 and 18 as amended or any of the other pending claims.

Claim 13 now calls for providing a synthetic resin substrate and forming an organic material undercoat layer on a surface of the substrate. The undercoat layer is to relieve stress caused by a coefficient of thermal expansion difference between the synthetic resin substrate and an electrode formed thereon. An oxide conductive film electrode containing an amorphous material is formed at a temperature not exceeding the film's crystallization temperature and the film is then crystallized by heating.

Synthetic resins, when used as substrates in substrate electrode combinations, have a greater susceptibility to bend than do glass substrates. At the same time, however, in order to reduce the internal resistance of a circuit, it is necessary that the thickness of the conductive films used for electrodes and the like be increased. Thus, when a synthetic resin is used as a substrate, while size reduction and device performance improvement progress, the more serious becomes a problem of bends in the substrates and fractures and the like that come along with the bend. In the present invention, an undercoat layer made of an organic material on a surface of the synthetic resin substrate is used to relieve stress caused by a difference in a coefficient of thermal expansion between the substrate and the electrode formed thereon. See the discussion in the specification at page 5, line 22 to page 6, line 8 and page 9, line 24 to page 10, line 2.

Suzuki et al. '674 teaches display device manufacture involving sputtering indium oxide, tin oxide or both as a substrate kept at a temperature of no more than 100°C, patterning the film by a weak acid etch and annealing the patterned film at a temperature of 150 to 300°C.

There is no discussion in Suzuki et al. '674 about providing an undercoat layer made of an organic material on a synthetic resin substrate surface to relieve stress caused by the difference in a coefficient of thermal expansion between the substrate and an electrode formed thereon.

While the specification contains an acknowledgement that synthetic resin substrates have been used in the past, that past use coupled with Suzuki et al. '674 does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed. Applicants say with respect that the discussion in the specification at page 4, lines 17 to 25 about forming a transparent conductive film or an organic material color filter to function as an electrode in an STN mode color LCD does not, except when viewed in impermissible hindsight, provide a proper suggestion to the person of ordinary skill in the art to

modify Suzuki et al. '674 in the manner required to meet the limitations of the present claims. That prior art discussion is not an organic material undercoat layer located between a synthetic resin substrate and an amorphous material oxide conductive film electrode for stress relief. As such, the claims patentably distinguish over the cited art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging that certified copies of the prior documents were filed and received, here in the parent case, and for listing references provided with an Information Disclosure Statement.

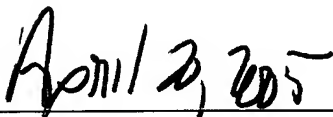
In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in immediate condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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